

Michael Smith
Deputy Coordinator
Helena ABATE chapter
1503 E. Lyndale Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

EXHIBIT 12
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HB S34

Opponent for HB534

As a motorcycle rider of 12 years and a registered voter, I oppose the mandatory helmet law for motorcycles, and quadracycles for many reasons.

As a mentally competent adult, the idea of other people telling me I'm not smart enough to be responsible for my own personal safety, to the point of making a non-victim crime law, is quite disturbing. I'm aware of the inherent risks associated with motorcycle riding and still choose to do so. On that note I do not oppose helmets, just helmet laws.

Second, the wearing of a piece of fiberglass on my head will not prevent me from being in an accident, or from being injured or killed in an accident. The majority of motorcycle fatalities are from motorcycle / automobile accidents, and the majority of those accidents are caused by the automobile driver. Making harsher penalties for those who cause accidents would, in the long run, save more lives.

Third, this law includes quadracycles, which would require ranchers and farmers to wear helmets while crossing roads during their everyday work. Most ranchers and farmers cross or drive on dirt roads at slow speed with next to no risk of even a minor accident, making a helmet nothing but an extra burden.

Forth, Montana as a state with a large motorcycle tourist trade, could be effected by out-of-state money choosing alternate routes because of Montana's helmet law. Montana is a popular destination for out-of-state motorcyclist for its beautiful mountain passes, and its freedom of choice to wear or not wear helmets.

Finally, in life we all take a certain number risks everyday and if we start making laws to protect us from every scenario that could possibly cause physical danger we will be a very sad and controlled state.